

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 FRB-03

OMB-01 TAR-01 SP-02 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 CEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06

EA-07 NEA-10 /128 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5963

INFO USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 01028

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, OECD, BE

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FEBRUARY MEETING OF OECD HIGH-LEVEL GROUP ON
COMMODITIES

REF: STATE 13335

1. IN EMBOFF DISCUSSION WITH SURQUIN OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S
COMMODITIES OFFICE OF USG VIEWS ON CORM AND THE OECD HIGH-
LEVEL GROUP ON COMMODITIES (HLGC), SURQUIN SAID BELGIUM AS
SMALL COUNTRY STRONGLY SUPPORTED CONSULTATION AMONG DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES IN OECD HLGC PRIOR TO CORM. HE AND LALOUX WOULD
REPRESENT BELGIUM AT AN HLGC MEETING.

2. SURQUIN CHARACTERIZED GROUP B PAPER (REFTEL) AS "NON-PAPER"
AND SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH BELGIUM HAD NO SPECIFIC DISAGREEMRNT
SIMILAR TO CANADA AND FRANCE WITH THE POINTS IN THE PAPER,
BELGIUM FINDS THE PAPER TOO GENERAL AND FAVORS MORE
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SPECIFIC AND CONCRETE BASIS FOR DISCUSSIONS IN THE CORM.

HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT GROUP B PAPER WOULD BE
CONFRONTATIONAL IF USED IN CORM. OVERRIDING BELGIAN
CONCERN IN CORM IS TO ARRIVE AT POLITICALLY ACCEPTABLE,
NONCONFRONTATIONAL POSITIONS WITH THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
WITHOUT COMPROMISING FREEDOM OF ACTION BY DEVELOPED COUNTRIES.
ON TECHNICAL LEVEL, BELGIUM IS CONCERNED THAT AGREEMENTS
ON COMMODITIES IT PROCESSES MIGHT RESULT IN HIGHER PRICES
OR, FOR OTHER COMMODITIES, SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

3. SURQUIN REPORTED THAT BELGIUM HAD NO INITIATIVES TO
SUGGEST FOR HLGC DISCUSSION BUT HAD HEAR THAT USDEL WAS
DEVELOPING NEW IDEAS ON APPROACHES IN CORM. SURQUIN SAID
BELGIUM WOULD WELCOME FRESH CONSIDERATION OF THE COMMODITIES
ISSUE IN THE HLGC. FIRESTONE

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